Improving the conditions of homebased women workers

*208. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what action Government propose to take in the wake of Hon'ble Prime Minister's remarks made in April, 2007 that perhaps there is, in our societies, a cultural bias for women to be in home based work;

(b) if so, whether its further compounding, through increase in sub-contracting and outsourcing, resulting in higher percentage of home based women workers to 51 per cent in 2005 from only 35 per cent in 2000 would be controlled; and

(c) what measures are on the anvil to ensure that skills and variegated experiences of women workers are utilized in nation building activities at par with those of male workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) to (c) Ministry of Labour and Employment has informed that there is no authentic data on home based workers and they are not recognized as an independent category in the Census. An enactment to provide social security to the unorganized workers including home based workers is under active consideration of the Government.

New panel on mineral policy

*209. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a new panel on mineral policy to attract investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what were the short-comings as per the Hoda Committee report; and

(d) how far it is proposed to address those issues?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) A new National Mineral Policy has been drafted to attract investments in the Mining Sector. The recommendations of the Hoda Committee report were considered while drafting the new Mineral Policy which is under consideration of the Government.

Setting up of solar energy plants

†*210. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of solar energy plants being set up in the States, as on date;

(b) the total amount spent thereon, so far;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) by when each of these plants are likely to be commissioned;

(d) whether Government propose to set up such plants, particularly in rural areas during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry is promoting deployment of solar photovoltaic power packs/plants in different parts of the country including rural areas by providing partial financial support. These projects are implemented through the State nodal agencies in their respective States. The projects are sanctioned to the State agencies on the basis of proposals submitted by them. In addition, installation of solar photovoltaic power plants and lights is also being supported under the remote village electrification programme. The State-wise details of such projects under implementation and the funds released to the State agencies are given in Statement (*See* below). These projects are likely to be completed during the current financial year.

(d) and (e) An allocation of Rs. 185.00 crores has been made in the annual budget for 2007-08 for the solar photovoltaic and remote village electrification programmes for supporting various projects including solar photovoltaic power plants. A target for electrification of 2,000 remote villages and hamlets has been set for 2007-08 through renewable energy systems including solar photovoltaic lights and power plants.

Statement

State-wise details of the SPV Power Pack/Plants projects under implementation and the funds released to the State agencies (As on 1.8.2007)

State	Type of PV System	Quantity in Nos	Total capacity in kWp	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
Chhattisgarh	Stand alone Power Plant	58 villages	382.0	638.50*
Haryana	Power Pack	11	11.0	6.25
	Stand Alone Power Plant	21	56.7	35.43
Maharashtra	BIPV	9	9.0	4.50
	Power Pack	13	13.0	3.75
	Stand alone Power Plant	3 villages	20.0	1094.11*

1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal	BIPV	2	16.4	5.00
	Stand alone Power Plant	5 villages	100.0	2318.26*
		2 schools	4.2	2.62

BIPV - Building Integrated Photovoltaic System

* This includes release of funds to the State agencies during 2005-06 & 2006-07 for both on-going and completed projects for installation of solar photovoltaic systems/power plants sanctioned under the remote village electrification programme.

Persistent drop-out of students

*211. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the children in the age group of 6-12 years are getting dropped out from schools persistently in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any concrete policy to enhance the enrolment of such children in schools to reduce the drop-out rate; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Drop-out rates have been declining steadily since launch of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The dropout rate at primary level declined from 39.03% in 2001-02 to 28.49% in 2004-05.

A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for reducing drop-out rates. One set of interventions relates to strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, annual school grants, regular training of teachers, regular academic support to teachers etc. In addition, several interventions under SSA also aim at community support, flexible schooling for children who are dropouts, older children or children in difficult circumstances, and special provisions to promote education of girls, children from disadvantaged sections of society or children with special needs.

Electrification of Rajasthan villages through solar and bio-gas energy

*212. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified through solar and bio-gas energy in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have launched any scheme/programme to provide energy derived from sun and bio-gas to rural areas of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and